

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A splicing device for splicing a first strip (8) fed off a first reel (10), and a second strip (9) fed off a second reel (11); the device ~~being characterized~~ **by comprising**

a first drum (13) rotating about a first axis (13a) and having a first face (19) for selectively retaining and guiding the first strip (8); ~~and~~

a second drum (14) rotating about a second axis (14a) and having a second face (20) for selectively guiding and retaining the second strip (9); wherein the first and second face (19, 20) ~~being~~ are so shaped as to form a gap between said first and said second face (19, 20), and to selectively press the first (8) and second (9) strip together as a function of given indexing angles of the first and second drum (13, 14); and

a cutting tool (15) comprising a fixed portion (31) and a movable assembly (33) and located along an axis (A) of symmetry of the splicing device (5); the axis (A) of symmetry extending between said first and said second drum (13, 14); wherein the fixed portion (31) comprises an outer face (32), which defines, together with the first drum (13), a portion of a first path (P1) of the first strip (8), and defines, together with the second drum (14), a portion of a second path (P2) of the second strip (9).

2. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second face (19, 20) are looped respectively about the first and second axis (13a, 14a), and comprise, respectively, a first and a second curved face (21, 22), which

press the first and second strip (8, 9) together at given indexing angles of the first and second drum (13, 14).

3. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the first and second face (19, 20) respectively comprise a first and a second  
connecting face (23, 24); the curved faces (21, 22) being located at a greater distance than the  
first and second connecting face (23, 24) from the respective first and second axis (13a, 14a).

4. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the first and second connecting face (23, 24) are flat and parallel to the first and  
second axis (13a, 14a) respectively.

5. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein said first and said second drum (13, 14) have respective suction channels (25, 26),  
which come out along the first and second face (19, 20) respectively to retain the respective  
free ends of the first and second strip (8, 9).

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 1 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the movable assembly (33) comprises a first and a second blade (34, 35), and swings about a third axis (33a) to selectively position the first blade (34) to interfere with the first strip (8) along the first path (P1), and the second blade (35) to interfere with the second strip (9) along the second path (P2).

10. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 1 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second drum (13, 14) and the movable assembly (33) are driven by a single drive member (36).

11. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second drum (13, 14) are connected to each other by respective gears (38, 39).

12. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 10, ~~characterized by~~ and comprising at least one cam (40, 41) rotating about one of the axes (13a, 14a) of the first and second drum (13, 14) and integral with the first and second drum (13, 14); said movable assembly (33) being integral with at least one tappet (42, 43) to activate the blades (34, 35) as a function of the position of the first and second drum (13; 14).

13. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ comprising a first and a second plate (16, 17) comprising, respectively, a first and a second

seating face (27, 28), along which respective suction channels (29, 30) come out to retain the first and second strip (8, 9).

14. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second seating face (27, 28) have ends adjacent to the first and second drum (13, 14) respectively.

15. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second seating face (27, 28) face each other.

16. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second seating face (27, 28) are concave.

17. (Currently amended) A method of splicing a first strip (8) fed off a first reel (10), and a second strip (9) fed off a second reel (11); the second strip (9) having a sticker (45) on its free end; and the method ~~being characterized by~~ comprising the steps of

guiding the first strip (8) along a first face (19) of a first drum (13), ~~and~~

retaining said free end of the second strip (9) by means of a second face (20) of a second drum (14) and the sticker (45) on the second face (20) of the second drum (14); ~~and~~

rotating the first and the second drum (13, 14) about a first and a second axis (13a, 14a) respectively, to press the first and the second strip (8, 9) and the sticker (45) together and so splice the first and the second strip (8, 9);

stretching the first strip (8) between a fixed portion (32) of a cutting tool (15)  
and the first drum (13);

moving a blade (34) into a position to interfere with said first strip (8); and  
cutting said first strip (8) between said fixed portion (32) and the first drum  
(13).

18. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 17, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~ wherein the first and second face (19, 20) respectively comprise a first and a second  
curved face (21, 22); and a first and a second connecting face (23, 24), the distance of which  
from the respective first and second axis (13a, 14a) is less than the distance between the first  
and second curved face (21, 22) and the respective first and second axis (13a, 14a).

19. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 18, ~~characterized by~~  
and comprising the step of indexing said first and said second drum (13, 14) about the first  
and second axis (13a, 14a) respectively, so as to position the first curved face (21) facing the  
second connecting face (24) to allow the first strip (8) to run along the first drum (13).

20. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 18, ~~characterized by~~  
and comprising the step of indexing the first and second drum (13, 14), so that the first curved  
face (21) faces the second curved face (22) to press the first and second strip (8, 9) and said  
sticker (45) together.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim ~~17~~ 21, characterized ~~by~~ and comprising the step of indexing the first and second drum (13, 14) to position the first connecting face (23) facing the second curved face (22), so as to allow the second strip (9) to run on the second curved face (22).

Add the following new claims:

23. (New) A splicing device for splicing a first strip (8) fed off a first reel (10), and a second strip (9) fed off a second reel (11); the device comprising

a first drum (13) rotating about a first axis (13a) and having a first face (19) for selectively retaining and guiding the first strip (8);

a second drum (14) rotating about a second axis (14a) and having a second face (20) for selectively guiding and retaining the second strip (9); wherein the first and second faces (19, 20) are so shaped as to form a gap between said first and said second faces (19, 20), and to selectively press the first (8) and second (9) strips together as a function of given indexing angles of the first and second drums (13, 14);

a cutting tool (15) comprising a fixed portion (31) and a movable assembly (33) and located along an axis (A) of symmetry of the splicing device (5); wherein the axis (A) of symmetry extends between said first and said second drum (13, 14); and

a single drive member (36) driving the first and second drum (13, 14) and the movable assembly (33).

24. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the first and second drum (13, 14) are connected to each other by respective gears (38, 39).

25. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 23, further comprising at least one cam (40, 41) rotating about one of the axes (13a, 14a) of the first and second drums (13, 14) and integral with the first and second drums (13, 14); said movable assembly (33) being integral with at least one tappet (42, 43) to activate the blades (34, 35) as a function of the position of the first and second drums (13; 14).